

1 to remove the material added to Claim 28. Claim 35 is amended to incorporate the limitations
2 previously set out in Claim 36 and Claim 36 has been canceled. The Applicants believe the
3 amended claims are now in condition for allowance.

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5 II. The Claims are Allowable Over the Prior Art of Record.

6 The Examiner rejected Claims 21, 22, 28, 29, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b)
7 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,228,402 to Plummer or U.S. Patent No. 3,922,641
8 to Gates, Jr. However, the Examiner indicated that Claims 23-37, 30-34, and 36-40 were
9 directed to allowable subject matter. The above amendments take limitations from the claims
10 previously indicated as allowable, and incorporate those limitations into independent Claims
11 21, 28, and 35. The Applicants believe these amendments place the case in condition for
12 allowance.

13 In addition to the first and second switches and the previously recited controller, Claim
14 21 now requires a memory device. The memory device stores signal input information
15 indicating the switch through which the respective first and second channel data is received. In
16 response to the channel select input, the controller enables the one switch which receives the
17 stream of data required to produce the desired channel output. Thus, the required data may be
18 directed on to the signal processor. Claim 28 is amended to require a similar memory device
19 in addition to the controller and a switching arrangement.

20 None of the prior art of record in this case teaches or suggests a device including the
21 switching arrangement, controller, and memory device now required in independent Claims 21

1 and 28. The Applicants therefore believe that Claims 21 and 28 are entitled to allowance along
2 with their respective dependent claims.

3 Claim 35 is now identical in scope with prior Claim 36 which the Examiner indicated
4 was in condition for allowance. The Applicants therefore believe that Claim 35 is now in
5 condition for allowance along with its dependent claims.

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1 **III. Conclusion**

2 For all of the above reasons the Applicants respectfully request consideration and
3 allowance of Claims 21 through 35 and 37 through 40.

4 Should the Examiner believe that any issue remains as to the allowability of the claims
5 or that a conference may expedite allowance of the claims, the Applicants respectfully request
6 that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney.
7

8 Respectfully submitted,

9 **SHAFFER & CULBERTSON, L.L.P.**

10 Date: 10 Nov. 2000

11 By: 

12 Russell D. Culbertson, Reg. No. 32,124

13 J. Nevin Shaffer, Jr., Reg. No. 29,858

14 Rafael V. Baca, Reg. No. 44,016

15 1250 Capital of Texas Hwy. South

16 Building I, Suite 360

17 Austin, Texas 78746

18 512-327-8932

19 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANTS
20
21

22 **Certification of Facsimile Transmission**

23 I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the Patent
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25 Russell D. Culbertson, Reg. No. 32,124 

26 Dated: November 10, 2000
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